

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

27 SEPTEMBER 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuba

a. [redacted]

[redacted] at least two Soviet ships delivering [redacted] MIG-21s. We now estimate there are 25-30 aircraft of this type in Cuba.

b. Our running account of the number of Soviet dry cargo vessels making the voyage to Cuba since mid-July is now over 100. About 85 of these probably were carrying military hardware.

c. The Cuban Foreign Office on Tuesday ordered Western correspondents to put in for new credentials by today, telling them that all of Cuba beyond Havana's city limits is out of bounds except by special permission.

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2. Soviet Fishing Port in Cuba

a. It now appears that the port will be located in Havana Bay. The fact that it will be under continual observation by ships of many nations strengthens our belief that under present circumstances its primary function will be economic rather than military.

b. The Cuban fishing fleet--now very small but in process of expansion--will use the port along with the Soviets. The Soviets will also assist in developing the Cuban fishing industry. Under the agreement, they are to provide Cuba with additional food shipments, which amounts to a continuing commitment to shoulder Cuba's food problem.

c. Soviet fishing fleet support vessels (tankers and mother ships) based at the port could, of course, service Soviet naval and electronic surveillance vessels at sea.

d. The timing of the agreements, along with Gromyko's denunciation at the UN of US policy toward Cuba, reflects Moscow's desire to avoid any appearance of retreating in the face of US pronouncements.

3. USSR-Indonesia-Afghanistan

a. Moscow seems intent on extracting a full pound of flesh from both Djakarta and Kabul in settlement of past favors.

b. In the case of Indonesia, the Soviets are said to want their loans fully repaid on schedule in shipments of tin, oil, and copra. For Afghanistan, the price of a new trade agreement is to be a three-year monopoly on its exports of karakul skins and rugs.

c. We note that these goods provide the bulk of hard currency earnings for the two countries. Neither can afford to give them away in any substantial quantities and expect to keep its economy on an even keel.

4. Congo

a. Judging by his mood on Tuesday, U Thant is sorely tempted to throw in the towel.

b. On that day, he approved a plan to end the Union Miniere's payments to Katanga. He indicated, however, that he would seek Security Council authority to close down the UN's Congo operations if the plan failed.

c. Tshombé's attitude, in contrast, is one of burgeoning confidence. His contemptuous rejection yesterday of the UN's protest over the booby trapping of one of its patrols is only the latest, and a comparatively minor, symptom. He has virtually suspended negotiations for ending Katanga's secession, and is demanding that the UN evacuate the Elisabethville airfield.

d. Adoula, fed to the gills with the vagaries of Congolese parliamentarians, is once again talking of throwing them out and governing by decree. Mobutu will back him and, presumably, the army will back Mobutu.

5. Laos

a. We have so far been unable to turn up any clues as to what Souphannouvong, who has now been in Moscow for three days, is up to.

b. It is evident, however, that the main purpose of his trip is neither to obtain treatment for an earache nor a pleasure junket.

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c. In Laos, Souvanna's people sat down with the Pathet Lao last Friday to thrash out some of their differences. Both sides went through the ritual of reaffirming their adherence to the principles of mutual trust and understanding, but neither showed much give when it came to working out arrangements for access into each other's territory. They plan to wrestle some more on this one.

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6. Yemen

a. All we have so far on the coup in Sana are the rebel radio broadcasts saying that Mohammed Badr, the Imam of eight days, has been "got rid of" and that a "Free Yemeni Republic" has been established. It is clear, however, that the anti-monarchical group

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has made its move earlier than we had anticipated in our piece yesterday.

b. We do not know whether the rebellion extends beyond Sana. It is improbable that the northern tribes supporting Badr's uncle Hasan (who is still in New York) will go along, and a countermove by them or, by Badr if he is still alive is quite possible.

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USIB WATCH COMMITTEE MEETING--26 SEPTEMBER 1962

1. The United States Intelligence Board yesterday approved the weekly report of its Watch Committee. The report focused attention on the reopening of the Sino-Soviet dispute, bloc military exercises, the Sino-Indian border, and on recent events in Cuba, Berlin, and Southeast Asia.
2. The Committee reaffirmed its conclusion that the Communist side does not intend in the immediate future to initiate direct military action.

NOTES

- A. USSR-Space The Soviets this morning launched from Tyuratam what appears to be an unmanned, recoverable earth satellite. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- B. USSR The annual movement of naval vessels to join the Soviet Pacific Fleet via the Northern Sea Route has been completed. This year's convoy, composed of eight submarines and several small surface craft, was one of the smallest in recent years. [REDACTED]
- C. USSR-Bloc Another meeting of the Bloc's Economic Coordinating Council, at the deputy premier level, is under way in Moscow. This one looks like a nuts-and-bolts session on how to go about economic integration.
- D. North Korea Pyongyang, on Tuesday, put in its two-cents worth on the Sino-Soviet ideological dispute with a blast at "Tito revisionism" which must have been well received in Peiping.
- E. Angola The recent appearance of armed Africans in Luanda and the use of more sophisticated weapons by the rebels in the countryside indicates that Portugal's Angolan headache is getting worse. [REDACTED]
- F. UN - West New Guinea Indonesia and the Netherlands are agreeable to the appointment of James Barrington, former Burmese Ambassador to the US, as the UN administrator in West New Guinea during the transfer of power period. All that is needed is for Barrington to agree. [REDACTED]

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G. Ecuador Rightist congressmen have been unable to go forward with impeachment of Arosemena. Arosemena is still skating on thin ice, but seems to be winning grudging admiration, and support, from the military.

H. India

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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